

BERNSTORFF'S SHIP SERENE IN HALIFAX

Liner Frederik VIII. Is Surrounded by Cordon of British Naval Vessels.

INSPECTION IS EXPEDITED

Ex-Ambassador's Party, Isolated From World, Welcomes U. S. Papers.

HALIFAX, N. S., Feb. 17.—Count von Bernstorff, formerly German Ambassador to the United States, and members of his party homeward bound on the Scandinavian-American steamer Frederik VIII. had a comparatively quiet time aboard while in British waters here today. They were free from every possible source of disturbance, for none except Government officials and inspectors was permitted to pass the cordon of naval boats of every description that steamed back and forth near where the Frederik VIII. was an anchor in Bedford Basin.

The monotony of the enforced stay was relieved somewhat when a batch of American newspapers was taken aboard, to be eagerly read by Count von Bernstorff, who is known to be keenly interested in the development of the international situation since his departure from New York on Wednesday. All editions of the local newspapers were sent to the ship during the day, and these constituted the stock of information obtained by the former Ambassador and several hundred German consular agents with him, as there was no mail to be picked up here.

Inspection Well Under Way.

While the small army of inspectors engaged in the examination of the vessel were under orders not to discuss any matters relating to their work, it was learned that the examination of the Frederik's cargo was well under way tonight. Some of the inspectors intimated that it might require a week or more to complete the examination, although this view was not shared generally by port officials. Every effort is being made to expedite the work, so that the ship may resume her voyage without unnecessary delay. While half of the inspecting force was in the hold with cargo others were examining the credentials of the passengers.

There was a stir along the waterfront during the afternoon over reports that Hans Tauscher and Wolf von Igel, indicted in the United States some time ago for an alleged attempt to destroy the

Welland Canal, would be taken off the Frederik under orders from London. Admiralty authorities declared such reports were without foundation. It was pointed out Tauscher was acquitted and that the State Department at Washington had ordered Von Igel's bail bond cancelled. He had never pleaded to the indictment.

Ship Is Strictly Guarded.

The port authorities declared again, however, that no one of the Frederik's passengers would be permitted to land while the vessel remained in port. So strictly were the regulations observed that the pilot picked up outside by the Frederik was still aboard to-night, and it was assumed that he would not come ashore until he has taken the ship out and returns on a naval tug.

At the point in Bedford Basin where the Frederik is anchored the view of the city is obstructed and the passengers are as isolated, so far as the city is concerned, as if they were far out at sea. Reports from the ship indicated that they were accepting the situation with cheerfulness, although Countess von Bernstorff was said to be suffering from a slight nervous attack.

GERARD PARTY OFF TO MADRID TO-NIGHT

Recalled Envoy to Berlin Has Another Long Talk With Sharp in Paris.

PARIS, Feb. 17.—James W. Gerard, the former Ambassador to Germany, passed much of to-day at the American Embassy, where he had another long talk with Ambassador Sharp and received various callers. Mr. and Mrs. Gerard dined to-night with Ambassador and Mrs. Sharp.

Mr. Gerard and his party, according to present plans, will leave for Madrid on Sunday night to take a steamer at Corunna for the United States.

Joseph C. Grew, formerly secretary of the American Embassy at Berlin, who came here from Germany after the break in diplomatic relations with the United States, left for Vienna last night to become counsellor of the American Embassy there.

The American legation at Berne received notice to-day that the American Consuls who were left in Germany when Ambassador Gerard departed will arrive in Switzerland via Schaffhausen on Tuesday afternoon. It is expected that a large number of American residents in Germany will accompany them.

The American Consuls were left behind either because the Ambassador was unable to communicate with them or because they needed more time in which to settle up their affairs. The other Americans were unable to have their passports used in time to leave with the Ambassador.

Many Americans who have been living in Germany are reported to be waiting near Singen and Konstanz for permission to cross the frontier into Switzerland, according to a Geneva despatch.

BRITISH MAKE BIG GAIN ON THE TIGRIS

They Tighten Hold on Dabra Bend, Near Kut—Turks Lose 2,000.

LONDON, Feb. 17.—By a series of attacks uniformly successful the British in Mesopotamia have tightened their hold upon the defenses of Kut-el-Amara. Turkish resistance was almost paralyzed on Thursday and Friday and the capture of almost 2,000 prisoners, including high officers, and much war material is reported by the War Office.

This spoil, unusually large for the Mesopotamian fighting, fell into British hands as a result of assaults upon the strong Turkish fortifications on both banks of the Tigris where it winds about Kut. A considerable sector on the right bank was completely cleared of Turks, and advanced troops now hold the southwest corner of the strong Shumran loop positions five miles from Kut.

An unusual feature is that the Turkish statements admit the British success, which usually they totally ignore. Two Turkish statements of Thursday and Friday admit that "part of our positions were evacuated according to orders to prevent needless losses" on Thursday and that on Friday "we executed a slight backward movement to avoid unnecessary casualties."

The British statement reads:

The offensive against the Turks on the right bank of the Tigris was resumed Thursday. An important tactical point in front of the enemy's right was first seized. An attack on his right centre followed, resulting in the securing of our objective on a front of 700 yards. This was afterwards extended by bombing to a depth of 500 yards on a frontage of 1,000 yards. The half-hearted Turkish counter attacks were easily repulsed.

Some hours later an assault was launched against the enemy's left centre, securing our objective on a front of 550 yards.

During the night the enemy were cleared out of small areas they held on the river bank. By dawn Friday all the ground in the Dabra bend was in our hands.

The prisoners taken numbered 89 officers, including two regimental and three battalion commanders, and 1,996 other ranks. We captured five machine guns, 2,500 rifles and a large quantity of ammunition, equipment and stores.

A further advance of 1,200 yards was made Friday south of the Shumran loop. Our advanced troops now hold the southwest corner of this bend.

Italian Artillery Busy.

LONDON, Feb. 17.—"The Adige Valley area was the scene of considerable artillery activity," says to-day's Italian War Office statement.

"Our batteries caused fires to break out on the enemy's Zugna line. Minor encounters favorable to us are reported from various places."

"On the Julian front there were the usual artillery actions. The railway station at St. Lucia di Tolmino was hit by our fire."

FIGHTING RESUMED ON RUMANIAN FRONT

Engagement Opens in Heights of Carpathians Near the Trotus Valley.

LONDON, Feb. 17.—Fighting recommenced at dawn this morning on the Rumanian front, Berlin announces, but no particulars are given. The engagements began in the Carpathian heights north of the Oltuz Valley near its confluence with the Trotus and near the Trotus Valley Railroad.

The German statement does not say which army attacked, but it is believed here that the Teutons were the ag-

gressors, trying again to debouch in the Trotus Valley and cut the railroad. The Russian statement says only that there were outpost fights on the Rumanian front. The official statements follow:

German—Front of Prince Leopold: Near Illust, southwest of Lutsk, near Zhorow, south of Brestany and southwest of Stanislaw, Russian enterprises failed.

Front of Archduke Joseph: On the heights north of the Oltuz Valley engagements were begun at dawn this morning.

Front of Field Marshal von Mackensen and Macedonian front: The situation is unchanged. There was little military activity.

Russian—Western front: Scouting reconnaissances and rifle firing are proceeding. Snow is falling in the Carpathians.

Rumanian front: Military activity was limited to infantry firing and engagements among advanced detachments.

Caucasian front: On the Black Sea our vessels destroyed sixteen sailing schooners off the coast of Anatolia.

WAR TO CONTINUE LONG, SAYS DERBY

British Earl Thinks Critical Period Will Occur in Next Few Months.

LONDON, Feb. 17.—The Earl of Derby, Secretary of State for War, speaking at Bolton to-day expressed the opinion that the critical period of the war would occur in the next few months. "I would be a false friend," he said, "if I did not warn the country that the war is going to be long continued and the struggle even more bitter than in the past. It can only be won by every one doing his utmost. The three things

most vital are money, men and munitions. Money and munitions are being supplied in large quantities. Men we want and must have. The nation will have to make greater sacrifices in the way of giving its manhood to fight its battles. You will not win the war by saying you have won it."

"I am as confident as any one of the eventual result, but do not be led away into the too great optimism of thinking that the end is near. There is nothing that pleases us more than to hear that the German nation is at its last gasp. I do not think it is true. I believe the German nation is suffering, but it still has an enormous reserve of power and will make a great and gigantic effort to gain the mastery."

"I believe we are going to see the critical period of the war in the next few months. We must face it with courage. I confidently predict it will be a successful six months for us, but at the same time I do not think it will be a walkover."

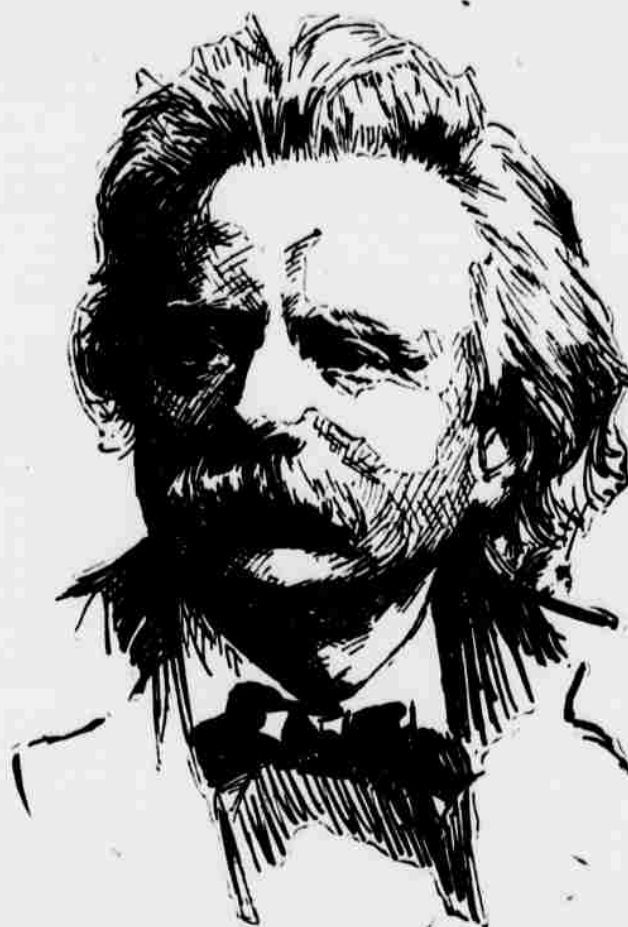
"You must receive bad news equally with good news, with the same courage, the same gameness and the same de-

termination. There is but one motto for every man and woman in the country, namely, 'Stick it out.' That is what you have got to do. At whatever cost, at whatever sacrifice, stick it out to the bitter end, and the bitter end will mean for you perhaps privation, but for those who come after you freedom from the horrors which we have experienced during the last two and a half years."

A force of 400,000 men is required for the British navy, according to the naval estimates for the coming financial year, which provide for that number.

Arthur Henderson, member of the War Council, speaking at Manchester to-day, said:

"In Government circles confidence regarding the final close of the war was never so high as now. I believe our commander in chief and all the leaders of the allied nations will be surprised if during the coming summer they do not strike such a blow as—with other conditions which prevail—will lead the war to close on lines entirely satisfactory for us and our allies."



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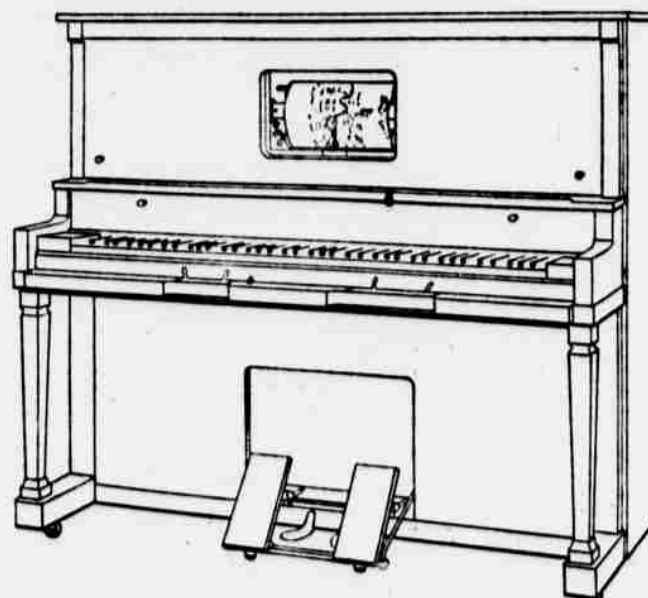
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